

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/675,538

Examiner

Mark T. Le

Applicant(s)

GRAU ET AL.

Art Unit

3617

80

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendments filed November 12, 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9,11,12,14 and 15.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 9/30/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Hanson on November 23, 2004. The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 3, "a two side threaded stud" have been replaced by -- a stud threaded at first and second ends and having a body therebetween; line 4, "a first threaded end" has been changed to -- said first threaded end--; line 5, "a nut screwed onto" has been changed to -- a fastener screwed to--; and line 8, "two sided" has been deleted.

In claim 5, lines 2-3 have been replaced by the followings: -- to claim 1, wherein said stud comprises a stud internally threaded at the second end and a threaded bar screwed into said internally threaded end of said stud.--.

In claim 8, line 4, "said body" has been changed to --said body portion--; line 5, "said release rail" has been changed to -- said release rail with an opening in said recess --; and line 6, "the body" has been changed to -- the body portion--.

3. Interview Summary: On November 23, 2004, the examiner called Mr. Hanson to propose corrections to informalities in claims 1 and 8, and to further include in claim 8 that the recess in the release rail includes an opening therein to receive the fastener stud so as to better define the instant claimed invention. Mr. Hanson agreed to the

Art Unit: 3617

examiner's proposal, and indicated that he would fax to the examiner a copy of the claims including the proposed changes. A fax response from Mr. Hanson was received on the same day; however, there were a couple of elements of informalities in claims 1 and 8 that were not fixed, and that the agreed language "wherein a recess is formed in said release rail with an opening in said recess to receive said fastener stud" was not included in Mr. Hanson's faxed response. The examiner then again called Mr. Hanson to ask for those informalities fixed and to include the previously agreed limitation in claim 8, and the proposal, as set forth in the above examiner's amendments, was finally accepted by Mr. Hanson.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark T. Le whose telephone number is 703-308-3663. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00-5:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mark T. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617

mle
12/06/04